(d) The Tenth Plan strategy proposes to eliminate child labour in hazardous sector through the National Child Labour Projects Scheme. The number of NCLPs has been recently extended from 100 to 150 districts and the names of additional 100 districts have already been identified on the basis of the recent census figures of 2001 (provisional). Children between the ages of 5-8 years would be put into primary schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and children between the ages of 9-14 years would be put into primary schools after attending the special schools run under the NCLPs.

Plight of mine child workers in Rajasthan

†1723. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 980 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 2004 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to gather information regarding plight of children under fourteen years of age working in various mines in Rajasthan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to seek help of voluntary organisations to ascertain the factual position in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Mines Act 1952, does not permit working of children in any mine. Further, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years in mines (underground and under water) and collieries. The Inspectors of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Central Industrial Relation Machinery (CIRM) under this Ministry make regular inspections of mines for gathering information of the employment/plight of the child labour. They have not found child labour under fourteen years of age working in the mines of Rajasthan during their inspections.

(b) and (c) For the rehabilitation of child labour, the Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in various child labour endemic districts in State of Rajasthan for children

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

withdrawn from hazardous works. Grants are also released directly to Voluntary Agencies on the recommendations of the State Governments under the Grant-in-Aid Scheme for taking up action-oriented projects for the working children, where NCLP is not in existence.

Funds for hundred days work scheme

1724. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no allocation of funds for hundred days work scheme in a poor household;

(b) the manner in which the assurance would be met without fund for it; and

(c) the measures proposed for quick implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) The work on drafting a Bill for National Employment Guarantee Act to provide 100 days of employment to one member of a poor household has begun. Necessary funds would be provided by Central/State Governments as per the requirement. In the meantime, Food for Work programme in 150 most backward districts has been announced in the Budget for the current year.

Job placement

1725. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest release of the employment generation figures show that over 4.14 crore Indians still await job placement;

(b) if so, whether Ministry's report quoting employment exchange statistics, shows that there has been an increase in notified vacancies for jobs both at Central and State levels from 2.2 lakh in 2002 to 2.6 lakh in 2003;